Docket No.: 50023-128   PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
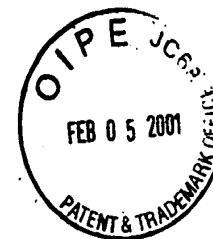
In re Application of   :

Yasuhiro KUWAHARA, et al.   :

Serial No.: 09/689,697   :   Group Art Unit: 2622

Filed: October 13, 2000   :   Examiner:

                           :

For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 5, line 2, please delete "input".

Claim 5, line 2, after the first occurrence of the word "data", please insert --of said pixels--.

Claim 5, line 2, before the first occurrence of the word "level", please insert --a--.

Claim 5, line 3, please change "decided on" to --determined--.

Claim 5, line 3, before the second occurrence of the word "the", please insert --and further wherein--.

Claim 5, line 4, please delete "input".

Claim 5, line 4, after the word "data", please insert --of said pixels--.

Claim 5, line 4, please delete "the".